

# Retiree News & NOTES



STATE RETIREMENT  
and PENSION SYSTEM  
of MARYLAND

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A Newsletter for Retirees from the State Retirement & Pension System of Maryland

## Twice-yearly schedule slated for advice slips

**BEGINNING THIS FALL**, most retirees will receive a mailed advice slip, or "check stub," just two times a year as the State Retirement Agency launches a new biannual schedule for advice slip delivery.

Retirees will continue to receive advice slips in January and July, and in any month in which their net payment changes.

While most retirees will receive advice slips just twice a year, all retirees can be confident that their payment will be deposited at their financial institution on time and in the correct amount every month. The Retirement Agency is committed to ensuring this. If you ever wish to confirm your deposit, you can always contact your savings institution to verify the amount of your payment.

In addition to an advice slip, the January and July mailings will include a *Retiree News & Notes* newsletter packed with information on new legislation, investment performance, cost-of-living adjustments and other timely topics.

Please review your latest advice slip for a message from the Retirement Agency regarding the launch of the new biannual schedule.

## System reports second consecutive year of strong investment returns

**THE STATE RETIREMENT AND PENSION SYSTEM OF MARYLAND** has achieved a second straight year of strong investment returns. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, the Retirement System gained 9.5% on invested assets. The Retirement System's net assets held in trust for pension benefits increased to \$32.1 billion, an increase of more than \$1.9 billion from the 2004 fiscal year end level.

Over the past two fiscal years, net assets held in trust for pension benefits have increased by \$5.3 billion. Overall equity returns for the fund were 8.8%, with domestic equity returning 6.9% and international equity 14.0%. Returns on real estate exceeded 27%.

Board Chairman and State Comptroller, William Donald Schaefer, noted that the Board's

continued focus on investment policies, such as asset allocation, and diligent implementation by staff provides a solid foundation for continued success. "Every participant can remain firmly confident in his or her retirement system," said Comptroller Schaefer. "The investment decisions we have made, and the strict adherence to those decisions, continue to produce strong returns."

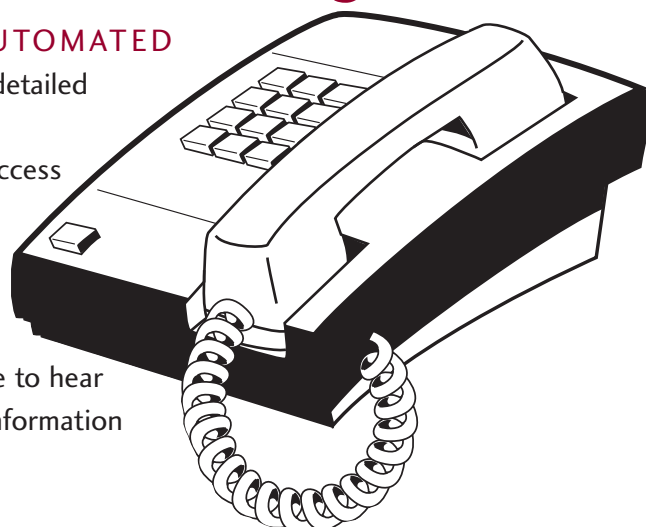
Vice Chairman and State Treasurer, Nancy K. Kopp, added that the positive momentum in investment performance is a clear indication that the System is sound and retirement benefits are secure. "Our System's Trustees and staff have placed us, and maintained us, on a solid path for success. We are very pleased with these results and the hard work that has produced them," stated Treasurer Kopp.

# New automated phone system starting this fall

THE STATE RETIREMENT AGENCY'S NEW AUTOMATED TELEPHONE SYSTEM will provide callers with more detailed account information at the push of a button.

The convenient new system will offer retirees 24-hour access to their retirement account.

Callers to the new system may select from the following options:



**1**

**Hot Topic:** Select 1 on your touch-tone phone to hear a recorded message with the latest news and information from the Retirement Agency.

**2**

**For retirees and beneficiaries receiving a monthly payment:** Press 2 and follow the instructions to confirm your current mailing address, request Agency forms and access your account information. You'll be able to verify the net amount of your monthly benefit, the date of payment and the name of the financial institution receiving your direct deposit.

**3**

**For current or vested members:** Selecting 3 provides information for active and vested members who are not yet retired.

**4**

**Appointments:** To schedule a counseling session at our Baltimore office or the regional location nearest you, simply press 4.

**5**

**Survivor Benefits:** Select 5 to report the death of a member or retiree.

**0**

**Staff Assistance:** If your question cannot be answered through the numbered options, select 0 or stay on the line to speak with a retirement benefits counselor.

To protect your privacy, your personal retirement information can be accessed only with your Social Security number and individual PIN (personal identification number). Your four-digit PIN is the month and year of your retirement. For example, if you retired July 2005, your PIN would be 0705. If you like, you may change your PIN when you access the automated phone system.

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